

THE  
GRANGE  
INITIATE  
AND  
DECLARATION  
OF PURPOSE

OF THE ORDER OF  
PATRONS  
OF  
HUSBANDRY



*To be presented*  
TO EACH  
INITIATE  
AT THE CLOSE  
OF THE 2ND DEGREE



**This Will Certify  
That**

.....

has been duly initiated in the  
First and Second Degrees of the  
Order of Patrons of Husbandry by

.....

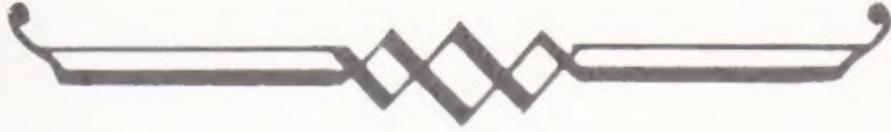
Grange No .....

Date

.....

*Secretary.*





# **YOU AND YOUR GRANGE**

The Grange that you have joined is an organization that will *work for you*. It is much more than that.

It is an institution through which **you can work**—you can influence others, and develop your own ideas—through which you can grow and assist others in growing—and thereby labor in the spirit of fraternity and cooperation with other Grange members to influence the world in which you live.

It is important, as a new member, that you and the members of your family understand that the Grange is not an agency that you are “hiring” to work for you, though your small





dues contribution to your Subordinate, your State and your National Grange will pay for very definite services and organizational functions. These services have, in the first century of service to America and her rural communities, left an indelible Grange imprint on the moral, social, economic, cooperative, political and cultural lives of our parents and ourselves. They have modified the communities and the American structure in which our children will live.

The Grange is not an organization through which you are going to hire all things done, in order that you may excuse yourself from the personal responsibilities that are inherent in the processes of self-instruction, self-help and self-government. It is, on the contrary, one in which mutual responsibility to each other, as well as to our community, state and Nation is recognized. The very atmosphere and purpose of the Grange thereby becomes a living, dynamic influence.

The fraternalism of the Grange truly develops better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. It stimulates individuals toward their maximum potential. And as individuals move in that direction, so does the community, the state and the Nation progress. Conversely, as we fail to stimulate our members—as you may fail to accept your respon-





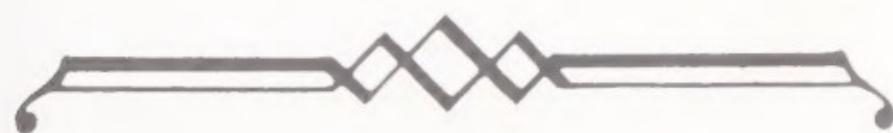
sibility—then *we and you* have contributed to a lesser community and have diminished the potential of our state and our Nation.

Grange work is built upon universal service, with sufficient range in its activities to give each member of the Grange—each member of the family—definite tasks. You have individual talents. Through the Grange you are afforded the privilege of using these to the benefit of your Brothers and Sisters in the Grange and your fellow citizens in the community. That Grange is strongest in which all the members bear some responsibility, no matter how willing a few may be to accept it all.

You are earnestly invited to become familiar with the record of service of the Grange. The Grange is now proud to claim you as a member. As you are stimulated to lend a hand in further enhancing the Grange's record of service, you are invited to accept your responsibility for influencing and helping to direct the course of your Grange. Through such wise investment of your talents, your time and your energy, you will receive rich dividends.

"Nothing less than our best is quite good enough for the Grange."

Your community and America as a whole need the best Grange that we can build. You can make your Grange better than it could be without you.





# **DECLARATION OF PURPOSES**

*While much of the basic philosophy expressed in this Declaration is true and applicable to Twentieth Century conditions, some of the statements have been outmoded by advancing civilization and changes in business methods. It is reprinted here to preserve its traditional and historical value.*

*Though the Declaration of Purposes was written by Major James W. A. Wright, first Master of the California State Grange, and adopted by the St. Louis Session of the National Grange (the seventh Annual Session) on February 11, 1874, this statement of Grange principles is truly applicable to OUR DECADE OF THE 1970's. Even though some of the statements have been outmoded by developments within our American structure—changes in business methods—the basic philosophy and purpose embodied in the Declaration of Purposes make it required reading for you as a new member.*

*We would especially call your attention to sections headed Preamble, General Objects, Specific Objects, Education, The Grange is Not Partisan, and Conclusion.*





## *Preamble*

Profoundly impressed with the truth that the National Grange of the United States should definitely proclaim to the world its general objects, we hereby unanimously make this Declaration of Purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry:

### *General Objects*

1. United by the strong and faithful tie of the betterment of the rural-urban community, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country, and mankind.
2. We heartily endorse the motto: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things charity."

### *Specific Objects*

3. We shall endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to accomplish the following objects:

To develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes, and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits. To foster mutual understanding and cooperation. To maintain inviolate our laws, and to emulate each other in labor, to hasten the good time coming.





To reduce our expenses, both individual and corporate. To buy less and produce more, in order to make our farms self-sustaining. To diversify our crops and crop no more than we can cultivate. To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel and more on hoof and in fleece, less in lint and more in warp and woof. To systematize our work, and calculate intelligently on probabilities.

**To discountenance the credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy.**

We propose meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, selling together, and, in general, acting together, for our mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may require. We shall avoid litigation as much as possible by arbitration in the Grange.

**We shall constantly strive to secure entire harmony, good will, vital brotherhood among ourselves, and to make our Order perpetual. We shall earnestly endeavor to suppress personal, local, sectional, and national prejudices, all unhealthy rivalry, and all selfish ambition.**

Faithful adherence to these principles will insure our mental, moral, social and material advancement.





## ***Business Relations***

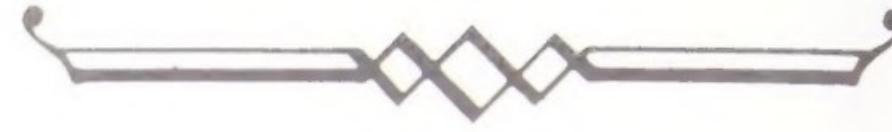
4. For our business interests we desire to bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible. Hence, we must dispense with a surplus of middlemen, not that we are unfriendly to them, but we do not need them. Their surplus and their exactions diminish our profits.

**We wage no aggressive warfare against any other interests whatever. On the contrary, all our acts, and all our efforts so far as business is concerned, are not only for the benefit of the producer and consumer, but also for all other interests that tend to bring these two parties into speedy and economical contact.**

Hence, we hold that transportation companies of every kind are necessary to our success, that their interests are intimately connected with our interests, and harmonious action is mutually advantageous, keeping in view the first sentence in our Declaration of Principles of Action, that "individual happiness depends upon general prosperity."

We shall therefore advocate for every state the increase in every practicable way, of all facilities for transporting cheaply to the seaboard, or between home producers and consumers, all the productions of our country. We adopt it as our fixed purpose to "open out the channels in nature's great arteries, that the lifeblood of commerce may flow freely."





We are not enemies of railroads, navigable and irrigating canals, nor of any corporation that will advance our industrial interests nor of any laboring classes. In our noble Order there is no communism, no agrarianism.

We are opposed to such spirit and management of any corporation or enterprise as tends to oppress the people and rob them of their just profits. We are not enemies to capital, but we oppose the tyranny of monopolies.

We long to see the antagonism between capital and labor removed by common consent, and by enlightened statesmanship worthy of the twentieth century.

We are opposed to excessive salaries, high rates of interest and exorbitant profits in trade. They greatly increase our burdens and do not bear a proper proportion to the profits of producers.

We desire only self-protection and the protection of every true interest of our land, by legitimate transaction, legitimate trade, and legitimate profits.

### *Education*

We shall advance the cause of education among ourselves, and for our children, by all just means within our power. We especially advocate for our agricultural and industrial colleges, that practical agriculture, domestic science, and all the arts which adorn the home be taught in their courses of study.





## *The Grange—Not Partisan*

5. We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft-repeated truth taught in our organic law, that the Grange—National, State or Subordinate—is not a political or party organization. No Grange, if true to its obligations, can discuss partisan or sectarian questions, nor call political conventions, nor nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in its meetings.

**Yet the principles we teach underlie all true politics, all true statesmanship, and if properly carried out, will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country. For we seek the greatest good to the greatest number.**

We must always bear in mind that no one, by becoming a Patron of Husbandry, gives up that inalienable right and duty which belongs to every American citizen, to take a proper interest in the politics of his country.

On the contrary, it is right for every member to do all in his power legitimately to influence for good the action of any political party to which he belongs. It is his duty to do all he can to put down bribery, corruption and trickery, to see that none but competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our interests, are nominated for all positions of trust, and to have carried out the principle which should always characterize every Patron, that . . . . .





## *The Office Should Seek the Man, and Not the Man the Office.*

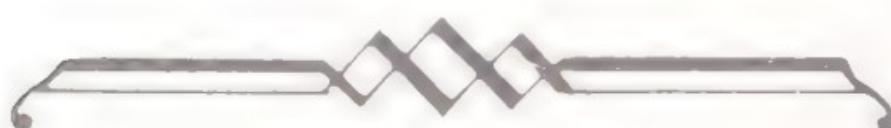
We acknowledge the broad principle that difference of opinion is no crime and hold that "progress toward truth is made by differences of opinion," while "the fault lies in bitterness of controversy."

We desire a proper equality, equity, and fairness; protection for the weak, restraint upon the strong; in short, justly distributed burdens and justly distributed power. These are American ideals, the very essence of American independence, and to advocate the contrary is unworthy of the sons and daughters of an American Republic.

We cherish the belief that sectionalism is, and et right should be dead and buried with the past. Our work is for the present and the future.

In our *universal* brotherhood and its purposes, we shall recognize no North, no South, no East, no West.

It is insisted by every Patron, as the right of a free man, to affiliate with any party that will best carry out his principles.





## *Outside Cooperation*

6. We appeal to all good citizens for their cordial cooperation and assistance in our efforts toward reform, that we may eventually remove from our midst the last vestige of tyranny and corruption.

We hail the general desire for fraternal harmony, equitable compromises, and earnest co-operation as an omen of our future success.

## *Conclusion*

7. It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by any means at our command.

Last, but not least, we proclaim it among our purposes to inculcate a proper appreciation of the abilities and sphere of woman, as is indicated by admitting her to membership and position in our Order.

Imploring the continued assistance of our Divine Master to guide us in our work, we here pledge ourselves to faithful and harmonious labor for all future time, to return by our united efforts to the wisdom, justice, fraternity and political purity of our forefathers.





# THE GRANGE DEFINED

More than 200,000 Grange meetings are held each year; bringing together—in some 600 different Subordinate Grange communities—tens of thousands of rural-urban Americans—Grange members, each weekday night around the calendar, in a fraternal atmosphere in which: there is a high moral tone, devoid of religious bias; a patriotic acceptance of responsibility, without partisanship; the open Bible on the altar and where appropriate respect is shown for the American flag.

The Grange embraces in its membership the entire family—father, mother, sons and daughters—making it truly an organization which strengthens family ties and builds respect for and enhances the dignity of the home.

The Grange cooperates with the church, school and all worthy agencies of the community, and develops community and citizenship responsibility.

The Grange is more than a farm organization . . . it is a GREAT RURAL-URBAN FAMILY FRATERNITY . . . the only one of its kind in the world. It is an institution through which people of the community, the state and the Nation can achieve ends that in their own judgment are desirable or necessary for the betterment of the rural-urban community.

We welcome you to the Grange!





